THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) The Central Government has formulated a special scheme, having an outlay of Rs. 285 crores, for modernisation of police forces of North-Eastern States, including Assam. Under this scheme, arms and ammunition, vehicles, communication equipment, etc. are being provided, in kind, to the police forces of the said States. The scheme has been in operation since the year 1997-98 and will continue till the year 2001-2002.

Reserves of diamond and valuable Stones in Raipur

†152. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the approximate reserve of diamond and other valuable stones in Raipur district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether Madhya Pradesh Government has sent any scheme for their mining to the Central Government for approval;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the latest position of above said mining schemes?

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK): (a) to (d) Geological Survey of India and Director of Mining and Geology, Madhya Pradesh have carried out preliminary exploration to establish diamondiferrous kimberlite pipes in Payalikhand and Bahradih areas in the district of Raipur, M.P. However, these preliminary explorations are not enough to estimate reserves.

No proposal for grant of mining lease for diamond has been received from the State Govt, of Madhya Pradesh and as such, the question of according approval under Section 5(1) of the MM(R&D) Act, 1957 by the Central Govt, does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.